

Claims

1 1. A method of administering payment for obligations of a
2 customer, the method comprising the steps of:

3 creating a customer account in a central database which is
4 supervised by an administrator;

5 directing a financial institution to make payment for a customer's
6 obligation, providing an electronic link between the administrator and
7 the customer; and

8 notifying the customer electronically of change in the account
9 status.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification is made in
2 real-time.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further
2 comprises creating a customer interface accessible by a customer
3 terminal for accessing the customer account.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
2 determining the frequency of notification of change of status of a
3 customer account with the customer terminal through the customer
4 interface.

0064409-071900

1 5 An administration system for directing payments for
2 financial obligations of a customer, the system comprising:
3 a central database having a plurality of customer files, said
4 customer files containing customer identification data and a plurality of
5 payment parameters;
6 a customer interface for inputting information from a customer
7 terminal into one of said customer files of said central database, said
8 customer interface having customer selection of said purchase
9 parameters;
10 means for providing authorization for the transaction to the
11 merchant, said means for providing authorization programmed to make
12 authorization in accordance with said customer selected purchase
13 parameters and predetermined credit parameters set for the customer;
14 means for making payment to said merchant for said transaction;
15 and means for collecting payment from a customer financial account
16 for the transaction.

1 6. The system of claim 5 further comprising a means for
2 delivering an electronic notice directly to a customer in response to a
3 change in account status.

1 7. A method of administrating payments for transactions
2 made by a customer from a merchant over the Internet, the method
3 comprising:

4 creating a central database having a customer account;
5 entering customer selected purchase parameters in the central
6 database;
7 approving the transaction when the transaction falls within the
8 purchase parameters.

1 8. The method of administering payments of Claim 7, further
2 comprising the step of collecting payment from a primary customer
3 account for the transaction.

1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of
2 notifying the customer electronically in real-time when a transaction is
3 made.

1 10. The method of claim 7 further comprising, entering
2 payment parameters into the customer account and directing payment
3 for the transaction in accordance with the payment parameters.

1 11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of
2 collecting payment for the transaction from a secondary customer
3 account when the primary account is unavailable to make payment.

1 12. An administration system for directing payment for
2 financial obligations of a customer, the system comprising:

3 a central database having a plurality of customer account files;

4 a means for enabling a customer to select purchase parameters
5 and storing the purchase parameters in the database;

6 means for authorizing a transaction when the transaction falls
7 within the purchase parameters.

1 13. The method of administering payments of Claim 12,
2 further comprising the step of collecting payment from a primary
3 customer account for the transaction.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of
2 notifying the customer electronically in real-time when a transaction is
3 made.

1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising, entering
2 payment parameters into the customer account and directing payment
3 for the transaction in accordance with the payment parameters.

1 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of
2 collecting payment for the transaction from a secondary customer
3 account when the primary account is unavailable to make payment.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of
2 notifying the customer electronically when there is a change in the
3 customer account.

1 18. A method for administering payments for financial
2 obligations;
3 creating a central database having a customer account;
4 entering a primary financial account and a secondary financial
5 account in the database;
6 directing payment for a customer obligation from the primary
7 account;
8 directing payment for the customer obligation from the secondary
9 account when payment cannot be made from the primary account.

00706gs/bc